

St. Mark's Messenger

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DEAR FRIENDS,

It was great to see so many people at the after-church presentation last Sunday. Jack Carpenter announced that we are starting a capital campaign entitled "Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing for the Future." Jack chairs the task force that has been looking at facility needs across the church.

The goal for phase one of the campaign is \$300,000 over three years. Jack announced the very good news that, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of several St. Mark's members, more than \$100,000 has been pledged so far.

The task force began with a list of maintenance and improvement projects that had been carefully assembled by the Board of Trustees. Church leaders were then consulted about needs, costs, and priorities. The list of projects is a compilation of these priorities, approved by the Church Council.

As you might expect, any list like this is at best a snapshot. Both the task force and the Council understand that needs, costs, and priorities will change over the three-year period of phase one. But the list gives us an excellent place to start work on ensuring the future of St. Mark's. You will receive it in the mail soon, and your questions or suggestions are welcome.

A big thank you goes to our Board of Trustees and chair Stan Watson. And, most especially, St. Mark's is forever indebted to both Bob Hout and Bill Williams, who every day oversee maintenance big and small. Because of our size and age, there is always something that needs attention--and we can always count on Bob and Bill. And I mean always. What these men give to this church is both incalculable and inspiring.

When you see them, be sure to say thanks, or hug them, or give them a thank-you note. Wait a minute, they don't like attention. Forget I said that.

See you in church!

Craig

Want a more-authentic faith? *LIVING THE QUESTIONS*

People know that at its core, Christianity has something very, very good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity may be a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people are encouraged to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice.

Living the Questions is a video-based study which moves beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. **It will help seekers and long-time members alike to discover the profound significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what an authentic faith can look like in today's world.** The study is on Monday's, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room, near the church office. It will run through Lent. All are invited.

LAST WEEK TO SIGN UP

Registration for the Women's Retreat will continue through this Sunday, March 19. Don't miss out on this great weekend of fun and renewal for all women. If you have questions please contact Millie McKibbin, millie.mckibbin@bannerbank.com or Jan Hess, jmh921@icloud.com.

SDPD SANCTUARY

On March 8, St. Mark's made the church campus available to police officers in our community for their personal and work needs when the church campus is open. You may see an increase of police presence in our break room, Social Hall, restrooms, and office area as officers take their lunch breaks, take personal breaks, as well as write necessary reports during their shifts. The officers will park their cars in the lower lot, behind the preschool when they are on campus. If you have any questions please contact Rev. Craig or Rev. Jeri.

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING

There will be a group of men from St. Mark's that will be meeting for breakfast on April 4, at 7 a.m. at Country Waffles (5252 Balboa Ave). All men are invited to attend!

THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF

Thanks so much to each of you who made a contribution to Christmas gifts for the office staff. I am so grateful for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and support. It's a privilege to be in ministry with you! **Craig**

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift which I received this year from St. Mark's. I am grateful and honored to be a part of this community of faith. **Jeri**

Thank you to those who made staff gifts possible this past Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated. St. Mark's is a very caring place. **Kris**

A very heartfelt thank you to all who made a monetary contribution to the Christmas gifts for the office staff. Your generosity allowed me to make some necessary car repairs that I had been putting off. I am so very grateful to be part of St. Mark's family. God's grace, mercy and peace to you all! **Malinda**

Thank you very much for the gift! **Angel**

HE STANDS ACCUSED: THE SEVEN ILLEGAL TRIALS OF JESUS

With Lent underway, we look toward the events of Holy Week in April. Jesus stood accused before Jewish and Roman authorities, yet no man was ever more innocent or endured such illegal and unfair shenanigans under a legal system. Who were His accusers--the crook Annas, the High Priest Caiaphas, a Jewish Sanhedrin, Roman Governor Pontius Pilate, enemy Herod Antipas? You are invited to attend the St. Mark's Lenten Service on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. conducted by Ministers and Lay Servants. Witness the action of trials as Jesus heads to the cross. Hear the Law spoken according to the Jewish Talmud, and Roman Code of Criminal Procedure. Consider the illegalities of a 13-hour period that is at the center of our Christian faith today.

39ERS MEET FOR LUNCH

If you are 39 or ever have been, you are invited to lunch on Friday, April 7 at 11:30 at Country Waffles (5252 Balboa Ave). Please call Wendy Holman if you plan to attend so she can save you a seat: 858-273-3184.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship
2:30 PM TNT Event/Offsite
4:30 PM PSB Quintet Concert/Sanc

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

By Jack Carpenter

We have begun a campaign to secure the future of St. Mark's, entitled "Preserving Our Heritage, Preparing for the Future." Following the example of the visionary men and women who built this church, we seek now to build a legacy to ensure the long-term care of our facilities, and to provide improvements to meet the demands of ministry over the next 20 years. You may have heard that termites are chewing away at the sanctuary, or that the stairs on our education building are rusting away. We need a much easier and more-effective sound system for the hearing impaired. The large planters in front are damaged, and we need to replace the trees and install water-efficient landscaping. These are just a few examples. The deferring of these and other maintenance items is costly. Phase one of the campaign has a goal of \$300,000 over three years. As the campaign begins, we have already received generous pledges totaling \$115,000. Watch your mail for more information, and plan to be in church on Sunday, April 2, as we share communion and consecrate our pledges to the future of St. Mark's.

THE PACIFIC SOUND BRASS QUINTET

The Pacific Sound Brass Quintet will perform at St. Mark's this Sunday, March 19, at 4:30 p.m. The brass quintet seeks to educate, minister, and entertain through the performance of quality brass literature. As an ensemble of active educators, the brass quintet has style, substance, and a touch of silliness. There's something for everyone so invite your family and friends. A reception will follow the concert to meet and greet the members of the Pacific Sound Brass Quintet concert. All are invited!

TNT MARCH EVENT

All are invited to a pre-concert dinner at Chili's 94060 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.) on Sunday, March 19 at 2:30 p.m. just before the Pacific Sound Brass Quartet Concert at St. Mark's. Please call Jeannine Lacy at 858-453-4075 or Alyce Peterson at 858-278-9231 if you are interested in attending so they can make sure and save you a seat.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins at 8:30 a.m. in the New Room. Everyone is invited. Child care is available.

Below are the lectionary readings for this week:

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

IN OUR PRAYERS

When we joined the United Methodist Church, we made vows to commit ourselves to support the Church by "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness."

- ♥ *Jim Weir*
- ♥ *Sandy Modlin*
- ♥ *Debra Birdsong*
- ♥ *Loretta Pierce*
- ♥ *Marilyn Stout*
- ♥ *Johnny Kind*
- ♥ *Mitch and Marisa Boyer*
- ♥ *Gary Childs*
- ♥ *Marlene Larson*
- ♥ *Dave & Marisa Newman*
- ♥ *Terri Dillen*
- ♥ *Erin Reichman*
- ♥ *Tricia Martin*
- ♥ *Ron Hess*
- ♥ *Lee Smith*
- ♥ *Felix Mena*
- ♥ *Floyd Murphy*
- ♥ *Forrest Sedgwick*
- ♥ *Christine Kay*

and our military personnel, including:

- ♡ *Kris Brendal, Army*
- ♡ *Robert S. Chisholm, Navy*
- ♡ *Craig Clemans, Marines*
- ♡ *Paul Clemans, Air Force*
- ♡ *Blake Cross, Navy*
- ♡ *Brandon (Dempster) Lewis, Navy*
- ♡ *Samuel England, Navy*
- ♡ *Lenny Hezelett, Navy*
- ♡ *Amanda Hoadley, Navy*
- ♡ *Michael Hunter, Navy*
- ♡ *Brady Jackson, Army*
- ♡ *Jeremy Munson, Navy*
- ♡ *Milo Riegle, Marines*
- ♡ *Nathan Streeter, Army*
- ♡ *Robert Tarango, Navy*

DARE TO DREAM

A series of six small-group gatherings for youth has begun and continues each Sunday through this Sunday, March 19. Kids gather at Karen Scanlon's house from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. And lunch is on the house! Through a short video study called *Dare to Dream*, kids are building a mission statement for their lives. We look at dreams, desires, and temperament. Pretty soon you'll see our kites "soaring" in the courtyard! All youth are invited: It's not too late to jump in. There's merry-making, singing of silly song, and partaking of some playful interaction. Questions? Please connect with Karen at kwscanlon@gmail.com or call 858 272-7357. We make the dearest of friends in small-group gatherings.

CHURCH-GOERS JUMP ON BOARD SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN GIVING PROJECT

Lots of you were in church last Sunday to see the Sunday School kids and crew in golden yellow thinking caps. Every year at Lent we put our thoughts toward helping our neighbors in some capacity. Kids did a magic trick before the congregation's very eyes: We turned those caps into Bags of Opportunity. Your opportunity! We gave out 50 of those bags in a jiffy and could have used more. So, we ordered more!

Take a golden yellow Bag of Opportunity home with you, fill it with the following five items (and a small gift or snack if you please), and return it to St. Mark's sometime before Easter Sunday, April 16. Items include pack of pencils, pack of lined notebook paper, glue stick, pack of crayons or colored pencils, and hand wipes of any kind.

These Bags of Opportunity will be placed inside desks that were donated for the Tijuana School Build project. Someone donated 150 desks, and we want to put a golden bag inside each desk. We set our sights too low at 50. Church goers last Sunday were so enthusiastic we've set our sights at filling a golden bag for each of those 150 desks. Can we do it! Yes we can!

LET US KNOW!

Picture-taking and video recording are frequently done during church events. Some of those pictures may be published in our church publications, slideshows, on our website, or on our social media pages. If you do not wish to have your picture published, please let an usher know, or contact the church office by phone or email.

NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

Monday, March 20, 2017

1:00 PM Living the Questions Study/NR
4:30 PM CCSA Board Mtg/CR
6:00 PM Carillon Bells/SH

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

6:00 PM Finance Committee Mtg/NR

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

3:30 PM UMW Exec. Mtg/Lib
5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH
5:30 PM Bible Study/NR
6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH
Youth Group/Rm. 10

Thursday, March 23, 2017

8:00 AM Chair Yoga/SH
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR
5:20 PM Chimes/SH
7:00 PM Boy Scouts/SH
Chancel Choir/CR

Friday, March 24, 2017

5:30 PM Adv. Lay Speaker Course/NR
8:00 PM Tongan Misinale/SH

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:00 AM Adv. Lay Speaker Course/NR
10:00 AM Lenten Art Show/Narthex

Sunday, March 26, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
10:45 AM Blood Pressure Screening/NR
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

OUR PRESENCE

Church attendance on Sunday, March 12 was 159.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Remember the monthly blood pressure screening is the fourth Sunday of each month at 10:45 A.M. in the New Room. This is a free screening. Be sure to stop by and get yours checked.

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

Video of each Sunday's sermon is available via our website: stmarksumcsd.org/sermons or our YouTube channel: stmarksumcsd.org/youtube.